Salem Steel Plant

2234. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken for the installation of hot rolling facility at Salem Steel Plant;

(b) whether any agreement was signed with a German Company for the supply of hot rolling steckel mill equipment;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the total cost of this project and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (d) The scheme for the installation of the Hot Rolling Facilities (HRM) at Salem Steel Plant was approved by the Government in April, 1991. The total cost of the project is Rs. 664.60 crores inclusive of foreign exchange component of Rs 218.86 crores. The project is likely to be completed by April, 1995.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. An agreement has been signed with M|s SMS Schleemann Siemag, Germany in January, 1993 for supply, erection and commissioning of Hot Rolling Steckel Mill consisting of a Reheating Furnace, Roughing Mill, Steckel Mill, Boiler and Roll Grinding Machine

Steel Export Promotion Council

2235. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to constitute a Steel Export Promotion Council; and

(b) if so, what are the details of its set up and functions to be assigned to the council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) There is no concrete proposal at present for setting up an export promotion council for the steel industry .

Modernisation of Steel Plants

2236. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any progress with regard to the modernisation proposals of Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants in order to increase their present capacity to 4.5 million tonnes each; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Modernisation and technological improvement of a steel plant is a continuous process. Though there are some specific schemes proposed during the VIII Five Year Plan to be taken up in Bhilai Steel Plant, there is no comprehensive project for its modernisation.

While the Government has already accorded approval 'in principle' to the modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant, Steel Authority of India Limited has submitted a proposal which aims primarily at introducing continuous casting technology and partial modernisation of Hot Strip Mill together with related service facilities. The proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

Setting up of Steel Plants in Maharashtra

2237. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first big steel plant in the State of Maharashtra is going to be set up by the Usha Ispat Ltd.; and